



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

Rachel K. Paulose, United States Attorney

Jeanne F. Cooney, Director of External Relations
Media Line: 1-888-264-5107

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 23, 2007

Federal Indictments Handed Down for Human Trafficking

Minneapolis - A Nevada man was indicted by a federal grand jury in Minneapolis this week on human trafficking charges. Darryl Taylor, age 43, was charged with one count of the sex trafficking of a minor and one count of possession of documents in furtherance of trafficking.

The indictment states that on or about December 2, 2003, Taylor trafficked a person in Minnesota, knowing that person was a minor and knowing that force, fraud, and coercion would be used to cause that person to engage in a commercial sex act. The indictment also states that on December 2, 2003, Taylor was in possession of identification documents to aid in the trafficking of that minor.

If convicted, Taylor faces a maximum potential penalty of life in prison for this crime. Any sentence will be determined by a judge.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Rob M. Lewis is prosecuting the matter.

(MORE)

In another human trafficking case, a superseding indictment was filed in federal court this week against Daniel McNeal of Burnsville, Minnesota, and an unknown person. The initial indictment charged McNeal alone with one count of the sex trafficking of a minor.

The superseding indictment also charges McNeal with four counts of transporting a minor with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity. Moreover, it charges McNeal and the unknown person with four counts of coercing and enticing an individual to travel to engage in prostitution.

Specifically, the superseding indictment states that during September and October of 2006, McNeal transported a minor to Iowa, Texas, and South Carolina for the purpose of having that minor engage in prostitution and sexual activity. Between August and September of 2006, McNeal and the unknown person also allegedly coerced another individual to travel to Florida, Missouri, Texas, and Iowa to engage in prostitution.

If convicted of the sex trafficking of a minor, McNeal, who has several prior felony convictions, including a 2000 conviction in Texas for a sex crime, faces a maximum potential penalty of life in prison. Each count of transporting a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity carries a maximum potential sentence of thirty years in prison. If convicted, McNeal and the unknown person each faces a maximum potential sentence of twenty years in prison for every count of coercing and enticing someone to travel to engage in prostitution. Any sentence will be determined by a judge.

Assistant United States Attorney Erica H. MacDonald is prosecuting this matter. The investigation of this case was conducted by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Task Force.

(MORE)

News Release - Page 3 - Taylor, McNeal, and FNU LNU

The Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Task Force, named for the slain St. Paul police officer who dedicated his professional life to eradicating the trafficking and prostitution of human beings, was established with federal dollars. The Task Force is comprised of investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Custom Enforcement, the St. Paul Police Department, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and others. Through the Task Force, investigators work with victim service organizations to locate and assist trafficking victims while apprehending and prosecuting those responsible for this reprehensible crime.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked annually across international borders for involuntary servitude or use in the sex trades. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 are trafficked within the U.S. each year. According to the Justice Department, the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area is one of the fifteen largest human trafficking centers in the country. The fight against this horrific violation of human rights is a major priority of the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney Offices nationwide.

###

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, however, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.